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FLA'SHER. *n. f.* [from *fla/b.*] A man of more appearance of wit than reality. *Diad.*
FLA'SHLY. *adv.* [from *fla/b.*] With empty show; without real power of wit or solidity of thought.
FLA'SHY. *adj.* [from *fla/b.*]
 1. Empty; not solid; showy without substance.
Fla/b. wits cannot fathom the whole extent of a large discourse.
 When they list, their lean and *fla/b.* songs
 Grate on their scannell pipes of wretched melody. *Milton.*
 This mean conceit, this darling mystery,
 Which thou think'st all nothing, friend! thou shalt not buy;
 Nor will I change for all the *fla/b.* wit. *Dryden's Pers. Sat.*
 2. [From *flacidas*, *Scinner.*] Inlaid; without force or spirit.
 Distilled books are, like common distilled waters, *fla/b.*
 things. *Bacon, Essay 51.*
 The tastes that most offend in fruits, herbs and roots, are
 bitter, harsh, sour, waterish or *fla/b.* *Bacon's Nat. History.*
FLASK. *n. f.* [from *flasque*, French.]
 1. A bottle; a vessel.
 Then for the Bourdeaux you may freely ask;
 But the Champagne is to each man his *flask*. *King.*
 2. A powder-horn.
 Powder in a skilful soldier's *flask*
 Is set on fire. *Shakespeare.*
FLASKET. *n. f.* [from *flasque*.] A vessel in which viands are served.
 Another plac'd
 The silver stands, with golden *flaskets* grac'd. *Pope's Ode.*
FLAT. *adj.* [from *flat*, French.]
 1. Horizontally level without inclination.
 Thou all-flaking thunder,
 Strike *flat* the thick rotundity of th' world. *Shak. K. Lear.*
 The houses are *flat* roofed to walk upon, so that every
 bomb that fell on them would take effect. *Addison on Italy.*
 2. Smooth; without protuberances.
 In the dawning of the next day we might plainly discern
 it was a land *flat* to our sight, and full of boggage. *Bacon.*
 3. Without elevation.
 Cease t' admire, and beauty's plumes
 Fall *flat*, and shrink into a trivial toy,
 At every sudden sighting quite abash'd. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
 4. Level with the ground.
 In them is plainest taught, and easiest learnt,
 What makes a nation happy, and keeps it so,
 What ruins kingdoms, and lays cities *flat*. *Milt. Par. Reg.*
 That Christ-church stands above ground, and that the
 church of Westminster lies not *flat* upon it, is your lordship's
 commendation. *South.*
 5. Lying horizontally prostrate; lying along.
 The wood-born people fall before her *flat*,
 And worship her as goddesses of the wood. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
 That lamentable wound,
 Which laid that wretched prince *flat* on the ground. *Daniel.*
 6. [In painting.] Without relief; without prominence of the
 figures.
 7. Tasteless; insipid; dead.
 He, like a puling cuckold, would drink up
 The lees and dregs of a *flat* tamed piece. *Sh. Trail. and Cres.*
 Taste so divine; that what of sweet before
 Hath touch'd my sense, *flat* seems to this and harsh. *Milton.*
 The miry fields,
 Rejoicing in rich mold, most ample fruit
 Of beauteous form produces; pleasing to sight,
 But to the tongue inelegant and *flat*. *Phillips.*
 8. Dull; unanimated; frigid.
 Short speeches fly abroad like darts, and are thought to be
 shot out of secret intentions; but as for large discourses, they
 are *flat* things, and not so much noted. *Bacon, Essay 16.*
 Some short excursions of a broken vow
 He made indeed, but *flat* insipid stuff. *Dryd. Don Sebastian.*
 9. Depressed; spiritless; dejected.
 My hopes all *flat*, nature within me seems
 In all her functions weary of herself. *Milton's Agonistes.*
 10. Unpleasing; tasteless.
 How weary, *flat*, *flat* and unprofitable
 Seem to me all the uses of this world! *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
 To one firmly persuaded of the reality of heavenly happi-
 ness, and earnestly desirous of obtaining it, all earthly satis-
 factions must needs look little, and grow *flat* and un-
 satisfactory. *Atterbury's Sermon.*
 11. Peremptory; absolute; downright.
 His horse with *flat* tiring taught him, that discrete stays
 make speedy journeys. *Sidney.*
 It is a *flat* wrong to punish the thought or purpose of any
 before it be enacted; for true justice punisheth nothing but
 the evil act or wicked word. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*
 As it is in the nature of all men to love liberty, so they
 become *flat* libertines, and fall to all licentiousness. *Spenser.*
 You start away,
 And lend no ear unto my purposes;
 Those prisoners you shall keep:
 — I will, that's *flat*. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. i.*

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Thus repuls'd, our final hope
 Is *flat* despair: we must exasperate
 Th' Almighty Victor to spend all his rage,
 And that must end us. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*
 If thou sin in wine or wantonness,
 Boast not thereof, nor make thy shame thy glory;
 But he that boasts, shuts that out of his story:
 He makes *flat* war with God, and doth defy
 With his meek clod of earth the spacious sky. *Herbert.*
 You had broke and robb'd his house,
 And stole his talismanique louse;
 And all his new-found old inventions,
 With *flat* felonious intentions. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 1.*
 Not shrill; not acute; not sharp in sound.
 If you stop the holes of a hawk's bell it will make no
 ring, but a *flat* noise or rattle. *Bacon's Natural History.*
 The upper end of the windpipe is ended with several car-
 tilages and muscles to contract or dilate it, as we would have
 our voice *flat* or sharp. *Ray on the Creation.*
FLAT. *n. f.*
 1. A level; an extended plane.
 The strings of a lute, viol, or virginals, give a far greater
 found, by reason of the knot, board and concave under-
 neath, than if there were nothing but only the *flat* of a
 board to let in the upper air into the lower. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
 Because the air receiveth great tincture from the earth, ex-
 pose flesh or fish, both upon a stake of wood some height above
 the earth, and upon the *flat* of the earth. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
 It comes near an artificial miracle to make divers distinct
 eminences appear a *flat* by force of shadows, and yet the sha-
 dows themselves not to appear. *Hutton's Architecture.*
 He has cut the side of the rock into a *flat* for a garden;
 and by laying on it the waste earth, that he has found in
 several of the neighbouring parts, furnished out a kind of
 luxury for a hermit. *Addison on Italy.*
 2. Even ground; not mountainous.
 Now pile your dust upon the quick and dead,
 'Till of this *flat* a mountain you have made,
 'T' o'er top old Pelion, or the skyish head
 Of blue Olympus. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
 The way is ready and not long,
 Beyond a row of myrtles, on a *flat*,
 Fast by a mountain. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*
 3. A smooth low ground exposed to inundations.
 The ocean, overpeering of his lift,
 Eats not the *flats* with more impetuous haste,
 Than young Laertes, in a riotous head,
 O'erbears your officers. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
 All the infections, that the sun sucks up
 From bogs, fens, *flats*, on Prospero fall. *Shakespeare. Tempest.*
 Half my pow'r's this night,
 Passing these *flats*, are taken by the tide;
 These Lincoln wathes have devoured them. *Shak. K. John.*
 Shallow; strand; place in the sea where the water is not deep
 enough for ships.
 I should not see the sandy hour-glass run,
 But I should think of shallows and of *flats*. *Shakespeare.*
 The difficulty is very great to bring them in or out through
 so many *flats* and sands, if wind and weather be not very
 favourable. *Raleigh's Essay.*
 Having newly left these grammatical *flats* and shallows,
 where they stuck unreasonably, to learn a few words with
 lamentable confusions, we are now on the sudden turn'd
 with their unballast'd wits in fathomless and unquiet deeps of
 controversy. *Milton on Education.*
 Full in the prince's passage hills of sand,
 And dang'rous *flats*, in secret ambush lay,
 Where the false tides skim o'er the cover'd land,
 And seamen with dissembled depths betray. *Dryden.*
 The sea could not be narrower than it is, without a great
 loss to the world; and must we now have an ocean of mere
flats and shallows, to the utter ruin of navigation? *Bentley.*
 5. The broad side of a blade.
 A darted mandate came
 From that great will which moves this mighty frame,
 Bid me to thee, my royal charge, repair,
 To guard thee from the demons of the air;
 My flaming sword above 'em to display,
 All keen and ground upon the edge of day,
 The *flat* to sweep the visions from thy mind,
 The edge to cut 'em through that stay behind. *Dryden.*
 6. Depression of thought or language.
 Milton's Paradise Lost is admirable; but am I therefore
 bound to maintain, that there are no *flats* amongst his elu-
 sions, when 'tis evident he creeps along sometimes for above
 an hundred lines together? *Dryden.*
 7. A surface without relief, or prominences.
 Are there then such ravishing charms in a dull unvaried
flat, to make a sufficient compensation for the chief things of the
 ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the last-
 ing hills. *Bentley's Sermon.*
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To **FLAT.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]
 1. To level; to depress; to make broad and smooth.
 The ancients say, if you take two twigs of several fruit-
 trees, and *flat* them on the sides, and bind them close, and
 set them in the ground, they will come up in one flock. *Bacon.*
 With horrid shapes she does her sons expose,
 Defends their swelling lips, and *flats* their nose. *Creech.*
 2. To make vapid.
 An orange, lemon and apple, wrapt in a linen cloth, being
 buried for a fortnight four foot deep within the earth, though
 in a moist place and rainy time, were become a little harder
 than they were; otherwise fresh in their colour, but their juice
 somewhat *flattened*. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 377.*
TO FLAT. *v. n.*
 1. To grow *flat*: opposed to swell.
 I burnt it the second time, and observed the skin shrink,
 and the swelling to *flat* yet more than at first. *Temple.*
 2. To obstruct; retard; hinder; to render unanimated or evanid.
 Nor are constant forms of prayer more likely to *flat* and
 hinder the spirit of prayer and devotion, than unpremeditated
 and confused variety to distract and lose it. *K. Charles.*
FLATLONG. *adv.* [from *flat* and *long*.] With the flat downwards;
 not edgewise.
 What a blow was there given?
 — An it had not fallen *flatting*. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
FLATLY. *adv.* [from *flat*.]
 1. Horizontally; without inclination.
 2. Without prominence or elevation.
 3. Without spirit; dully; frigidly.
 4. Peremptorily; downright.
 He in these wars had *flatly* refused his aid. *Sidney, b. ii.*
 Thereupon they *flatly* disavow'd
 To yield him more obedience, or support. *Daniel's Ci. War.*
 Unjust, thou say'st,
 Flatly unjust, to bind with laws the free. *Milt. Par. Lost.*
 Not any interpreters allow it to be spoken of such as *flatly*
 deny the being of God; but of them that believing his exis-
 tence, do yet seclude him from directing the affairs of the
 world. *Bentley's Sermons.*
FLATNESS. *n. f.* [from *flat*.]
 1. Evenness; level extension.
 2. Want of relief or prominence.
 It appears to very plain and uniform, that one would think
 the corner looked on the *flatness* of a figure, as one of the
 greatest beauties in sculpture. *Addison on ancient Medals.*
 3. Deadness; insipidity; vapidity.
 Deadness or *flatness* in cyder is often occasioned by the too
 free admission of air into the vessel. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
 4. Dejection of state.
 The emperor of Russia was my father:
 Oh, that he were alive, and here beholding
 His daughter's trial! that he did but see
 The *flatness* of my misery! *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*
 5. Dejection of mind; want of life; want of spirit.
 6. Dulness; insipidity; frigidity.
 How *flat* does obscurity, *flatness*, and impertinency flow in
 upon our meditations? 'Tis a difficult task to talk to the pur-
 pose, and to put life and perspicuity into our discourses. *Collier.*
 Some of Homer's translators have swelled into fustian, and
 others sunk into *flatness*. *Pope's Preface to Homer.*
 7. The contrary to shirliness or acuteness of sound.
 Take two laucers, and strike the edge of the one against
 the bottom of the other within a pail of water, and you shall
 find the found growth more *flat*, even while part of the saucer
 is above the water; but that *flatness* of sound is joined with a
 harshness. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 157.*
TO FLATTEN. *v. a.* [from *flat*, French, from *flat*.]
 1. To make even or level, without prominence or elevation.
 2. To beat down to the ground.
 If they should lie in it, and beat it down, or *flatten* it, it
 will rise again. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
 3. To make vapid.
 4. To deject; to depress; to dispirit.
TO FLATTEN. *v. n.*
 1. To grow even or level.
 2. To grow dull and insipid.
 Here joys that endure for ever, fresh and in vigour, are op-
 posed to satisfactions that are attended with satiety and surfeits,
 and *flatten* in the very tasting. *L'Estrange, Fable 161.*
FLATTER. *n. f.* [from *flat*.] The workman or instrument by
 which bodies are flattened.
TO FLATTER. *v. a.* [from *flat*, French.]
 1. To flatter with praises; to please with blandishments; to gra-
 tify with servile obsequiousness; to gain by false compliments.
 When I tell him he hates flatterers,
 He says he does; being then most *flattered*. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*
 His nature is too noble for the world;
 He would not *flatter* Neptune for his trident,
 Or Jove for power to thunder: his heart's his mouth;
 What his breast forges, that his tongue must vent. *Shakespeare.*
 He that *flattereth* his neighbour, spreadeth a net for his
 feet. *Prov. xxix. 5.*

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He *flattereth* himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be
 found hateful. *Pf. xxxvi. 2.*
 After this way of *flattering* their willing benefactors out of
 part, they contrived another of forcing their unwilling neigh-
 bours out of all their possessions. *Decay of Piety.*
 Averse alike to *flatter* or offend.
 They *flatter'd* ev'ry day, and some days eat. *Pope.*
 I scorn to *flatter* you or any man. *Dr. Newton's Ded. to Mills.*
 2. To praise falsely.
Flatter'd crimes of a licentious age,
 Provoke our censure. *Young.*
 3. To please; to flatter. This sense is purely Gallick.
 A consort of voices supporting themselves by their different
 parts make a harmony, pleasingly fills the ears and *flatters*
 them. *Dryden's Duffrenoy.*
 4. To raise false hopes.
 He always vacant, always amiable,
 Hopes thee, of *flatt'ring* gales
 Unmindful. *Milton.*
FLATTERER. *n. f.* [from *flatter*.] One who flatters; a
 flatterer; a wheedler; one who endeavours to gain favour by
 pleasing flatteries.
 When I tell him he hates flatterers,
 He says he does; being then most *flattered*. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*
 Some praises proceed merely of flattery; and if he be an
 ordinary *flatterer*, he will have certain common attributes,
 which may serve every man: if he be a cunning *flatterer*,
 he will follow the arch *flatterer*, which is a man's self. But
 if he be an impudent *flatterer*, look wherein a man is con-
 scious to himself that he is most defective, and is most out
 of countenance in himself, that will the *flatterer* entitle him
 to perform. *Bacon, Essay 54.*
 If we from wealth to poverty descend,
 Want gives to know the *flatt'rer* from the friend. *Dryden.*
 After treating her like a goddess, the husband uses her like a
 woman: what is still worse, the most abject *flatterers* dege-
 nerate into the greatest tyrants. *Addison's Guardian, N^o. 113.*
 The publick should know this of your ladyship; yet who-
 ever goes about to inform them, shall be censured for a *flat-
 terer*. *Swift.*
FLATTERY. *n. f.* [from *flatter*; *flatterie*, French.] False praise;
 artful obsequiousness; adulation.
 Minds, by nature great, are conscious of their greatness,
 And hold it mean to borrow ought from *flattery*. *Rowe.*
 Simple pride for *flatt'ry* makes demands. *Pope.*
 See how they beg an alms of *flattery*!
 They languish, O! support them with a lye. *Young.*
FLATTISH. *adj.* [from *flat*.] Somewhat flat; approaching to
 flatness.
 These are from three inches over to six or seven, and of a
flattish shape. *Woodward on Fossils.*
FLATULENCE. *n. f.* [from *flatulent*.]
 1. Windiness; fulness of wind; turgescence by wind confined.
 Vegetable substances contain a great deal of air, which ex-
 pands itself, producing all the disorders of flatulency. *Arbutnot.*
 2. Emptiness; vanity; levity; airiness.
 Whether most of them are not the genuine derivations of
 the hypothesis they claim to, may be determined by any that
 considers the natural flatulency of that airy scheme of no-
 tions. *Glanville.*
FLATULENT. *adj.* [from *flatulentus*, *flatu*, Latin.]
 1. Turgid with air; windy.
 Pease are mild and demulcent; but being full of aerial par-
 ticles, are *flatulent*, when dissolved by digestion. *Arbutnot.*
Flatulent tumours are such as easily yield to the pressure of
 the finger; but readily return, by their elasticity, to a tumid
 state again: these are so light as scarce to be felt by the pa-
 tient, and no otherwise inconvenient than by their unsight-
 liness or bulk. *Quincy.*
 2. Empty; vain; big without substance or reality; puffy.
 To talk of knowledge, from those few indistinct represen-
 tations which are made to our grosser faculties, is a *flatulent*
 vanity. *Glanville. Scetf. c. 23.*
 How many of these *flatulent* writers have sunk in their re-
 putation, after seven or eight editions of their works. *Dryden.*
FLATULITY. *n. f.* [from *flatulit*, French, from *flatu*, Latin.]
 Windiness; fulness of air.
 The cause is *flatulity*; for wind stirred, moveth to expel;
 and all purgers have in them a raw spirit or wind, which is the
 principal cause of tension in the stomach and belly. *Bacon.*
FLATULOUS. *adj.* [from *flatu*, Latin.] Windy; full of wind.
 Rhubarb in the stomach, in a small quantity, doth digest
 and overcome, being not *flatu*ous nor loathsome; and so send-
 eth it to the mesenteric veins, and, being opening, it helpeth
 down urine. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 44.*
FLATUS. *n. f.* [Latin.] Wind gathered in any cavity of
 the body, caused by indigestion and a gross internal perspi-
 ration; which is therefore dissipated by warm aromatics. *Quincy.*
FLATWISE. *adj.* [from *flat* and *wise*.] so it should be written, not
flatways.] With the flat downwards; not the edge.
 Its posture in the earth was *flatwise*, and parallel to the fits
 of the stratum in which it was reposit. *Woodward on Fossils.*
 To